

REMARKS

Claim Rejections under 35 USC §103(a)

Turning to the rejections of the claims, Claims 1-3, 5-7, and 10 have been rejected under 35 USC §103(a) over US Patent No. 5,838,596 (Shimomura) in view of US Patent No. 6,549,745 (May). Claims 4, 8, and 11-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Shimomura in view of May, and further in view of US Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0176722 (Iijima).

Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's assertions. The Office Action states that "the speed that is sensed, which is the real speed before the contact region, is the first peripheral speed of the flexible medium. Therefore, Shimomura does in fact disclose that the flexible medium is conveyed the first peripheral speed when the flexible medium reaches the contact region of the conveyor rollers" (Office Action, page 10).

According to FIG. 10A and FIG. 10B, the real speed depends on the point of the sheet model. For instance, head point, tail point and unit point are different points on a sheet model. In this regard, Shimomura merely describes a real speed that corresponds to a different point of a sheet model. Shimomura's real speed is associated with the position of a sheet model, the real speed is not associated with a "contact" or "non-contact" region of the conveyor rollers.

The Office Action alleges that Shimomura's "real speed" before the contact region is the first peripheral speed of the flexible medium. However, Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's argument. As recited in Claim 1, the first peripheral speed corresponds to the speed of the "contact region" of the conveyor rollers. While Shimomura describes the speed of a copy sheet that is brought in contact with rollers 11, Shimomura is not seen to disclose or suggest whether the sheet is brought in contact with the "contact" or "non-contact" region of roller 11. Based on the foregoing remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that Shimomura fails to describe that the flexible medium is

conveyed at the first peripheral speed when the flexible medium reaches the contact region of the conveyor roller.

Assuming *arguendo*, even if Shimomura does in fact disclose that the flexible medium is conveyed at the first peripheral speed when the flexible medium reaches the contact region of the conveyor rollers, Shimomura still fails to disclose or suggest a second peripheral speed of the non-contact region of the conveyor rollers, much less the difference between the second peripheral speed and a speed of the flexible medium is applied to the flexible medium when the flexible medium reaches the non-contact region of the conveyor rollers.

The other applied art, namely May, is not seen to describe a simulation method for simulating the behavior of a flexible medium. Therefore, there is no motivation to combine Shimomura's simulation system with May's teaching. Hence, based on the foregoing remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the applied references, namely Shimomura and May, are not seen to teach the foregoing features of independent Claim 1. Independent Claim 1 is therefore believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested.

In addition, independent Claims 5, 10, and 11 include substantially similar features as that of independent Claim 1, and are therefore also believed to be in condition for allowance for at least the reasons discussed above with respect to independent Claim 1.

The other pending claims remaining under consideration in this application are each dependent from the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed to be in condition for allowance for at least the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that all of the claims pending in the application meet the requirements for patentability and respectfully requests that the Examiner indicate the allowance of such claims.

Any amendments to the claims which have been made in this response which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon prior art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

If any additional fee is required, please charge Deposit Account Number 502456.

Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner may contact Applicants' representative at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

5/4/07

Date

/Trevor Chuang/

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